

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 184

**WHEREAS**, February 17 through 21, 2003, is being celebrated as Texas Technology and Life-Sciences Week in order to increase public awareness of the extraordinary achievements of these industries and the vital role they play in the prosperity of the Lone Star State; and

**WHEREAS**, Sponsoring Texas Technology and Life-Sciences Week are the AeA Texas Council, the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute, the Metroplex Technology Business Council, and TechNet Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, The technology and life-sciences industries and research institutions of Texas are achieving leading-edge advances in medicine, space exploration, computing, communications, energy, and transportation, revolutionizing the world we live in; within the state, these industries employ more Texans than do the oil, natural gas, and agriculture industries combined, and their high-wage, highly skilled jobs contribute to a diverse and growing economy; and

**WHEREAS**, People around the globe have benefitted immeasurably from the medical treatments and devices developed by Texas companies, and the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute, whose membership includes universities, private research institutions, and biotechnology, medical device, and pharmaceutical companies, estimates that nearly 400 new products are currently under development in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, The life-sciences industry constitutes a significant pillar of the Texas economy; in 1997 alone, life-science companies and institutions produced more than \$11 billion of the gross state product, and the industry employs some 50,000 Texans, with the promise of continued job growth for many years to come; and

**WHEREAS**, AeA, the nation's largest high-tech trade group, reports that Texas ranks second in the country in high-tech employment, with some 460,000 jobs; moreover, the state enjoys a high-tech payroll of \$31.6 billion, which places it 10th among all the states in terms of its high-tech average wage; the importance of this industry to Texans is further underscored by the fact that the number of high-tech jobs increased 47 percent between 1995 and 2001, and by the finding that high-tech products account for 30 percent of the state's international exports; and

**WHEREAS**, All sectors of the high-technology and life-sciences community are joining together this week to discuss the major issues facing their industries and to affirm their support for a strong system of public and higher education, a critical factor in providing the highly skilled workforce on which these industries depend; and

**WHEREAS**, The technology and life-sciences industries have become a tremendous engine of economic growth in the State of Texas, and the benefits of their research and production enrich people the world over; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby recognize February 17 through 21, 2003, as Texas Technology and Life-Sciences Week and commend its sponsors for their outstanding efforts in promoting research, development, and manufacturing in the State of Texas.

Ellis

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 18, 2003.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate